

The Manning Times

VOL. III.

MANNING, CLARENDON COUNTY, S. C., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1888.

NO. 28.

THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

AN EXHAUSTIVE REVIEW OF PUBLIC MATTERS IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

Suggestions of the Chief Executive to the General Assembly—The Various Interests of the State Which the Lawmakers Must Study and Foster.

The annual message of Governor John Peter Richardson was presented to each branch of the General Assembly on the 27th ult. It is a document of 28 octavo pages, replete with suggestions touching the different interests of the State. We give a synopsis of its statements and recommendations.

THE STATE DEBT.

The Deficiency Bonds and Stock maturing in July last amounting to \$420,592.26, were funded in new 4 per cent. bonds—these latter being taken by investors in South Carolina. The remaining portion of the State debt, which has been funded under the Consolidation Acts of 1873-78-79, consists of Consol Stock \$2,161,140.26, Consol Bonds \$3,841,000, and the Agricultural College Scrip, a perpetual fund of \$191,800. These amounts added to the Blue 4 per cent. Stocks of \$183,000, and Blue 4 Bonds of \$217,000, together with the \$5,187.73 Deficiency Bonds and Stocks yet to be redeemed, make the total funded debt \$6,599,127.99. The Consol Bonds and Stocks, amounting to \$6,002,170.26, are payable or redeemable in 1893.

The Governor recommends that the Legislature take immediate steps to fund that portion of the debt which matures in 1893. He further suggests that some measure be taken to induce the funding of that portion of the State debt still unfunded—amounting to \$450,599.22.

FORFEITED LANDS.

On the subject of forfeited lands, and the enforcement of the collection of taxes, the Governor says: This serious and difficult problem seems to have been effectually solved by the passage at the last Legislature of "An Act in Relation to Forfeited Lands, Delinquent Taxes, and Collection of Taxes." As Chairman of the Sinking Fund Commission—a Board largely charged with the supervision of its execution—my careful observation of its practical operation during the last year has led me to the conclusion that this law is practical and effective as it relates to the collection of the levy of 1887 and future levies, and also as it relates to the collection of back taxes due the State prior to the levy of 1887, estimated at present to be \$377,579, which is really a debt due by the delinquent to the taxpayer who has promptly paid his taxes.

It would be eminently wise, therefore, to allow this law to remain upon the statute books just as it now stands, without emasculation by amendment, with the single exception that it should be so altered as to require the County Sheriff to sell on some regular salesday under the direction of the Comptroller General.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The enrollment of the public schools for 1887-88 shows an increase of 18,417 pupils. There is also a gain of 14,036 in the average attendance, and a proportionate gain in teachers and buildings. There is evidence of increased interest in the common schools, in the improvement of school buildings, larger and more regular attendance, the holding of teachers' institutes, and the greater readiness of communities to tax themselves to extend the school term. The Winthrop Training School, in Columbia, is commended to the examination and the favorable consideration of the General Assembly. Touching the education of women, the Governor says:

In this day of individual enterprise, when women are entering the many new fields of modern progress, I hope you will consider what may be done to have phonography, telegraphy, photography, and kindred sciences taught in these institutions. There is no reason why our females, called to earn their bread by their own labor, should be confined to the school room. Their remarkable aptitude for teaching is simply an indication of what they can do, and have done, and will do in other departments suited to their sex.

His Excellency further urges an earnest effort on the part of teachers and school officers to increase the people's interest in the common schools and to improve these institutions as a means to "reach and elevate the masses," and he expresses the hope that the day is not distant when the light of knowledge, fed and guided by Christian principles, will find its way into every home in our borders.

THE STATE UNIVERSITY.

After setting out the expansion of the State University, effected by the Act passed at the last session, Governor Richardson says:

"There are now 221 students in attendance, with a strong probability, from letters received by the authorities, that the number will exceed 240 before the end of the current academic year. Of the 100 students entering for the first time this year, the large majority are pursuing scientific courses of study. The material is excellent, and a spirit of loyal enthusiasm pervades the whole institution. The Board of Trustees will ask for the continuance of last year's appropriations, and I recommend that the same be allowed them."

"In commending to your fostering care the University, our chief staff of learning, and bespeaking for it your liberal support, I do so in the firm conviction that there is no other agency at our command so potent for the advancement of the best interests, material, social, intellectual and moral, of our people."

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

The wisdom and necessity of establishing a high class institution of learning, devoted exclusively to instruction in the sciences pertaining to agriculture and in all the technological studies and arts germane to this most important and fundamental pursuit of man, has, during the past three years, excited great interest among the people of this State, and enlisted in its behalf the warmest advocacy and earnest efforts of many of our best and worthiest citizens. This question is one that demands for

its solution no investigation of principle, as it involves none, but simply considerations of policy as affecting the wishes and vital interests of a large and important portion of the people of the State. The decision upon this much agitated subject, arrived at by the last Legislature, after its mature and elaborate discussion for weeks, has been disturbed and unsettled by the introduction of a new factor, viz.: the liberal bequest made to the State for the establishment of such an institution by a distinguished adopted citizen, the Hon. T. G. Clemson, at his demise during the spring of the present year, coupled with certain conditions, which, under the terms of the will, must attach to its acceptance by the State. Naturally, therefore, the whole matter has again been brought before the people and fully and exhaustively discussed in both the State and county campaigns immediately preceding the general elections. There can then be no doubt whatever that you, the chosen representatives of the people, are in accurate possession of their views and wishes, and being of all vocations in life, and more largely of the agricultural class than any other, are prepared at all points to determine wisely this much vexed question.

While fully sensible that the whole responsibility of this determination rests with you, I would most respectfully call to your attention a few considerations in regard to this subject as necessarily affecting any conclusion to be reached. There can be no doubt, if it is the well ascertained desire of the agricultural class of the State that such a college should be established, that there should be measures at once taken to that end as a just recognition of their importance in numbers, intelligence and the value of their productions. The farmers constitute the very bone and sinew of the land, and upon the result of their labors rest all other industries, which must, therefore, be always best subserved and most effectually promoted when the occupation of farming is most successfully and intelligently conducted.

Admitting the necessity of thorough education and technical instruction to the followers of this primal as of any other pursuit in life, which surely no one in this age of progress can question, the duty of providing the means for such education and instruction becomes imperative, if not already existing. Consideration of economy become secondary where results are to be so amply compensating for the money expended. If, therefore, in the judgment of your honorable body, in addition to the splendid opportunities offered by our magnificent and superbly equipped University for the acquirement of agricultural knowledge in all its departments, from the most rudimentary to the most scientific in character, there be need of further facilities in this direction, it would be both just and wise to accede to the demand for a separate Agricultural College, and proceed by such steps as a legislature would dictate to establish such an institution as would accomplish the purpose sought, and be a credit to the State.

But this, I am clearly of the opinion, should be done without injury to, or the least disturbance of, the organization of a single institution now existing. There could be no wisdom in, and therefore no excuse for, pulling down one institution already established upon the broadest and most enlightened basis, and accomplishing a wondrous work towards the intellectual advancement of our young men, to erect another comparatively experimental in its system and far narrower in its field of instruction and usefulness. Nor should the building of a separate Agricultural College depend upon the acceptance of the Clemson or any other bequest, for the State of South Carolina is not as poor as some would represent her to be, and by a careful husbanding of her resources and the honorable maintenance of her credit she will, in the next few years, be amply able to build and support such a college without a dollar's increase of taxation. The refunding of her debt at the reduced rate of interest, she has the right to expect by the wise management of her finances will result in the annual saving of a sum—\$120,000 at least—that will be more than sufficient to build, equip and support in the most effective manner a first-class institution. In this connection I would suggest the further utilization of our Experiment Stations for the purposes of agricultural education, by gradually converting them into preparatory schools, where the manual labor of the pupils could be successfully employed in the cultivation of the farms and the conduct of experimentation, while securing for themselves, by their own efforts and without cost to the State, the inestimable advantage of a technical education. They would thus become superb feeders of our higher institutions, and the most worthy, industrious and proficient among the pupils might be awarded scholarships in our State University as an incentive to ambition and exertion.

I cannot, in fairness and frankness, pass from this subject without a brief expression of my views on the matter of the "Clemson bequest," already alluded to, which, I presume, will be brought before you in some shape for your consideration. In its acceptance or rejection, on the conditions with which it is encumbered is a matter solely for your determination and in which no executive officer has either voice or vote. But my sense of duty compels me to say that while I would rejoice to see the State in possession of so handsome a property and so large a donation, especially hallowed as it is by the clustering memories of her grandest and greatest son, I am decidedly of the opinion that it would comport neither with her true interest nor sovereign dignity as an independent Commonwealth to hastily and formally accept it before the validity of the will is clearly and judicially established and certain of the fact is had that the institution, when established, shall be and forever remain under the supreme and sole control of the State.

But upon your honorable body, as I have said, rests the responsibility of the determination of this question, and with these thoughts I leave it in your hands in full confidence of your reaching the wisest and most righteous conclusion.

OTHER STATE SCHOOLS.

The Citadel Academy is in a flourishing condition. There is need of additional quarters and additional equipment. The Governor recommends that the amount re-

covered from the United States government for the use of the buildings be applied to the rebuilding of the west wing of the Citadel, and to the better equipment of the institution. Funds are being raised from other States, and the Governor concurs in the opinion of the Board of Visitors that the school should so enlarge its facilities as to retain this patronage and invite more of the same sort.

The institution for the education of the deaf and dumb and the blind is admirably managed, and continues to do a beneficial work for those children of the State who are charged with its instruction. There are 102 inmates. There is need of a new building for colored pupils and also some improvements in the water supply. For these the Governor concurs in the request of the Board of Commissioners for a special appropriation.

Clifton University, for negroes of both sexes, is reported as doing a good work for that race.

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

The annual report of this department is commended to the earnest consideration of the Legislature. Its duties with which it is charged are of vital interest to all the people of the State, and the manner in which these duties have been performed amply justifies the wisdom of the Legislature in establishing this department of the State Government. During the year just closed the department has continued the experiments on the two agricultural experimental stations, located at Darlington and Spartanburg; conducted State and County Farmers' Institutes; inspected and analyzed commercial fertilizers on sale in the State; supervised the phosphate interests; investigated contagious diseases among domestic animals, and adopted measures for their prevention; enforced the fish laws at various points; established observation stations, where climatic data are collected, and sent daily weather indications to the numerous display stations under its control; issued monthly reports containing matters of interest to the farmers, and weekly crop bulletins; collected, compiled and published statistical information; published pamphlets, maps &c, showing the resources and industries of South Carolina; placed on exhibition a splendid collection of the products of the State, and conducted an extensive correspondence.

These are all matters of great importance, and they are fully treated in the annual reports of the Board and Commissioner. The Commissioner has also secured the establishment of river observation stations, where the rise of streams may be promptly noted and flood warnings given for the benefit of stock raisers and farmers. The recent disastrous floods prove the necessity for such stations. The Commissioner calls attention to the defects in the fish laws, and shows where they should be amended. He also endorses the recommendations of the special assistant of the department regarding changes needed in the laws regulating phosphate mining. All of these matters will doubtless receive your favorable consideration.

The Department of Agriculture asks for no appropriation from the Legislature. It is supported entirely by the privilege tax on commercial fertilizers and its finances are so managed that the income from this source is sufficient to meet all of its expenses. Its good work is apparent, and is more appreciated the more it is investigated and understood.

EXPERIMENTAL STATIONS.

The Experimental Stations, as now established, comprise the following: A central scientific staff at Columbia, with the necessary offices and laboratories, and three farms—one at Spartanburg, one at Columbia and one at Darlington. The upper farm contains 300 acres, the middle farm 120 acres, and the lower 237 acres. Each farm is supplied with stock, implements and machinery, including engines, gins, presses, mills, cutters &c. Besides the work of experimentation required to bring these farms into proper condition, a large number of field tests were planned and conducted. There were 650 experimental plots in cotton, 420 in corn, 56 in wheat, 48 in oats, and about 50 in miscellaneous crops, such as grasses, clovers, peas, soya beans, millets, sorghums, &c., or upward of 1,200 in all.

Each test was carefully duplicated and repeated on each farm. The checking and verification obtained gave great weight to the results. About 50 different varieties of cotton were tested.

In the laboratories at Columbia, analyses were made of typical soils of the State, of farm crops at different stages of growth, of different manurial materials, &c. Numerous varieties of commercial seeds were examined to determine their purity and vitality. Rust, cholera, and other diseases of plants and animals were studied, and an elaborate series of meteorologic observations bearing upon the physical properties of soils was begun. An account of some of these tests and analyses has been given to the public in the quarterly bulletins and the operations for the entire year will be fully discussed in the annual report, which will appear, in accordance with the requirements of the Hatch Act, on the first of next February.

The stations are ably officered, the farms are being rapidly brought into good condition for the work in hand, important lines of investigation have been entered upon, and much valuable experience has been acquired, and results of the highest importance to our agricultural interests may be expected, in some time, to follow from the thorough establishment of these stations.

PENAL AND CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

The State penitentiary contains 894 convicts, of which number 843 are colored and 51 are white; there being 45 colored and 2 white females. (Of these Mr. R. S. Pringle has 217 at work on phosphate mines near Summerville, S. C., and are employed on stone and lousery inside the prison, and the balance on the various farms, with the exception of a small number leased by the contractors of the Columbia Canal. The financial condition of the prison is good, the collections from all sources the past year having amounted to \$3,444.23 more than it cost to sustain it. When the expected collections are applied to the liabilities, it is expected that there will be a clear balance of about \$10,000. In consequence of loss from floods and other disasters, the Directors have been unable to repay the \$25,000 loaned to them, and they ask an extension of one year, in the assured hope of repaying past losses in that time. The physical condition of the convicts is satisfactory.

The annual report of the Regents of the Lunatic Asylum exhibits fully the operations of the last year, and clearly states the condition and requirements of this institution. The number of inmates increased from 649 to 680, of whom 393 are white and 287 are colored. It appears that the population would have been notably larger but for the liberal resort to the policy of sending home on trial such convalescents as it was thought might be trusted. Thus last year, of the 155 released on probation, only 27 returned, and all except 29 have been discharged. That the present buildings should be crowded is not surprising

when we consider that the census of 1880 gives the number of insane, epileptic, and idiotic as 2,700, all of whom may, according to our laws, be committed to the asylum.

The institution seems to have been economically conducted. There are tables to show that the cost of maintenance has been gradually reduced from \$202 in 1876 to \$140, and that the daily cost to the State of each patient is only 54 cents. The Governor concurs with the Superintendent in the opinion that further retrenchment is impracticable without lowering the standard of the institution and impairing its usefulness.

THE RAILROAD COMMISSION.

On the subject of State supervision of railroads the Governor recommends that the powers of the Railroad Commissioners be so extended as to enable them to require railroads within South Carolina to regulate their rates of freight within the State so that the public shall derive the greatest benefit possible consistent with the interest of the railroad corporations. He invites the attention of the Legislature to the subject of railroads in general, in order that such legislation may be had as will sufficiently protect the interests of the public.

OTHER MATTERS.

The State militia is reported in excellent condition. The Governor recommends a liberal support of the citizen soldiery.

Attention is called to the report of the Board of Pensions. The total number of applications filed in the Comptroller's office during the year and up to 30th September is 2,623. The Pension Board approved 2,025 of the applications filed; 1,492 of these were in favor of widows of soldiers who lost their lives in the service of the State or Confederate States, and 533 in favor of soldiers wounded in said service. The Board disapproved 598 applications, of which 371 were for soldiers, and 227 for widows. Of the \$50,000 applicable to pensions there is an unexpended balance of \$212.

The Governor suggests such further appropriations for the completion of the State House as the Legislature may deem consistent with the resources of the State. The Appropriation Committee of the State Agricultural and Mechanical Society the Governor thinks should be continued.

Attention is called to the suggestion of Major Harry Hammond, of Aiken, that the Legislature co-operate with the Legislature of Georgia in making an appropriation for a topographical survey of the Savannah river, with the view to ask the national government for the means to make the stream safely navigable and to prevent disastrous overflows.

CONCLUSION.

The message concludes as follows: "I have thus presented for your information and consideration as full and clear a statement as possible of the condition of the State in all the departments of the Government, with suggestion of such measures as have appeared to my mind expedient or necessary. In doing this I have endeavored to discharge faithfully, and with loyal heart, my whole duty under the Constitution, and now invoke upon your deliberations the guidance and blessing of the Divine Wisdom, the only true and unfailing source of peace, happiness, prosperity and progress to peoples and nations."

One Child's Voice in Singing.

Frederick S. Law, in The Voice, dwells at length on some of the dangers of allowing children to sing in public, particularly when under the care of ignorant or irresponsible conductors. One case is mentioned of a girl who was permitted to sing in halls large enough to test the powers of expansion of the lungs, and who, consequently, at the age of 19, although she had started out with great promise, had no voice at all left. "It is," says Mr. Law, "as much of an impossibility for a child to produce full and sonorous notes as it would be to load it down with heavy weights and expect it to walk at once. Many who would regard the latter as an act of cruelty will listen with complacency to the strains of a child's voice, and fill a large room with a voice that from its nature is not intended for such use."

Mr. Law concludes: "The instruction of children, as regards the voice, should be almost entirely negative—that is, they do not require teaching what to do so much as what not to do. They may be trusted to form their tones as they please, if they do not sing too loudly nor with any undue effort. If these conditions are not secured, they should not be allowed to sing at all. Nothing is more painful than to hear a child struggle to fill a large room with a voice crippled from an attempt to wrest from nature what is not there. In no way can we find compensation for such an exhibition. The mind receives no pleasure, and there can be no intellectual grasp of the subject, while the ear is tortured by shrill and distorted sounds which awaken a natural anxiety for the child's future welfare. A healthy child possessed of a good ear is the most natural singer in the world, because the most unconscious. It is only when tampered with by those who should know better that disastrous results are to be feared."—Brooklyn Eagle.

Method of Electric Writing.

A small needle is vibrated to and fro by the alternate currents. Attached to the end of the needle is a siphon about the hundredth part of an inch in diameter, through which ink flows constantly. The point of the siphon or pen rests on a strip of paper which is automatically pulled under it, as the needle vibrates the ink marks the vibrations in zigzag lines on the paper. The operator reads the signals off as they pass before him and writes them on the usual blanks, while an attendant coils up the paper strip and files it away. There is no noise as with a Morse instrument, and no "culling." The paper goes along continuously, and when the operator at the other end of the cable has a message to transmit he goes right ahead with it. The sending operator sits to the right of the receiver and manipulates two keys side by side, one for the positive and the other for the negative current. There is no sounding instrument except the keys, and the operator has no means of knowing what he is doing, except that when it does send a message at the other end, the sending operator there notifies the receiver at this end, who tells his associate where to repeat from.

A Morse operator unacquainted with cable work would think the sending operator was merely "drumming" on the keys, as there appears to be no mark on the cable to the uninitiated.—New York World.

She had auburn hair, and he wanted to say something very cutting, so he observed "In some parts of the West, I believe, they light the streets with red-headed girls." "Hump! That never would do in your town," answered the girl. "Why not?" he asked. "Because, you know, why you'd be hugging the lamp-posts all day, as well as half the night," was the crushing reply.

TALMAGE'S IDEAS OF FOOD.

HE DISCOURSES ON THINGS THAT ARE TABOOED.

The Vultures of Society, the Bats of Religion, the Chameleon in Church and Business, the Languorous Owl and the Slow and Benevolent Snail—Some Hard Hitts.

At the Brooklyn tabernacle Sunday the Rev. Dr. Talmage preached to a large audience on "Forbidden Diet." He took his text from Leviticus xi., 13-30—"And these are they which ye shall have in abomination among the fowls: the owl, the vulture and the bat. There also shall be unclean to you among the creeping things that creep upon the earth, the chameleon and the snail."

"The Bible offers very possible variety of theme, of argument and of illustration," said the preacher. "We care not much in what kind of a pitcher the water of life is brought, if it is only the clear, pure water. God gave the ancients a list of the animals that they might eat, and a list of animals that they might not eat. These people lived in a hot climate, and certain forms of animal food corrupted their blood and disposed them to scrofulous disorders, depraved their appetites and blemished their souls. A man's food, when he has the means and opportunity of selecting it, suggests his moral nature."

"The reason the wild Indian is as cruel as the lion, is because he has food that gives him the blood of a lion. A missionary among the Indians says, that by changing his style of food to correspond with theirs, his temperament was entirely changed. There are certain forms of food that have a tendency to affect the moral nature. Many a Christian is trying to do by prayer, that which cannot be done except through corrected diet."

For instance, he who uses swine's flesh for constant diet, will be diseased in body, and polluted of soul—all his liturgies and catechisms notwithstanding. The Gadarene swine were possessed of the devil, and ran down a steep place into the sea, and all the swine ever since seem to have been similarly possessed. In Leviticus, God struck this meat off the table of his people, and placed before them a bill of fare, at once healthful, nutritious and generous.

"But higher than this physical reason, there was a spiritual reason why God chose certain forms of food for the ancients. God gave a peculiar diet to his people, not only because he wanted them to be distinguished from the surrounding nations, but because certain birds and animals, by reason of their habits, have always been suggestive of moral qualities. By the list of things from which they were to abstain, God wished to prejudice their minds against certain evils; and in the list of lawful things given, he wished to suggest certain things given, he wished to suggest certain forms of good. When God solemnly forbade his people to eat the owl, the vulture, the bat, the chameleon, and the snail, He meant to drive out of his people all the sins that were thus emblemized.

"Take the suggestion of the text, and say that one of the first unclean things the Christian needs to drive out of his soul is the owl. The owl is the melancholy bird of night. It hatches out whole broods of superstitions. It is fearful and hideous. When it sings it sings through its nose. It loves the gloom of night better than the brightness of the day. Who has not slept in the cabin near the woods and been awakened in the night by the dismal 'too-hoo' of the owl? Melancholy is the owl that is perched in many a Christian soul. It is an unclean bird, and needs to be driven away.

SUNSHINE IS LIFE.

A man whose sins are pardoned and who is on the road to Heaven has no right to be gloomy. He says: 'I have so many doubts.' That is because 'you are lazy.' Go actively to work in 'Christ's cause,' and your doubts will vanish. You say 'I have lost my property, but I reply: 'You have infinite treasures laid up in Heaven.' You say: 'I am weak and sickly and going to die.' Then be congratulated that you are so near eternal health and perpetual gladness. Catch a few morning larks for your soul, and stonify them on your premises.

"As a little girl was eating the sun dashed upon her spoon, and she cried, 'O, mamma, I have swallowed a spoonful of sunshine!' Would God that we might all indulge in the same beverage! Cheerfulness; it makes the homeliest face handsome; it makes the hardest mattress soft; it runs the loom that weaves buttercups and rainbows and auroras. God made the grass black? No; that would be too sombre. God made the grass red? No; that would be too gaudy. God made the grass green, that by this visible all the world might be led to a subdued cheerfulness. Read your Bible in the sunshine. Remember that your physical health is closely allied to your spiritual. The heart and the liver are only a few inches apart, and what affects one affects the other. A historian records that by the sound of great laughter in Rome, Hannibal's assailing army was frightened away in retreat. And there is in the great outbursting joy of a Christian soul that can drive back any infernal besegement. Bats love dark closets, and Satan loves to burrow in a gloomy soul.

"It rejoices in the Lord, Oh ye righteous, and again I say, rejoice!" "Hoist the window of your soul in this the 12 o'clock of spiritual night. Put the gun to your shoulder and aim at the black jungle from which the hooting comes; pull the trigger and drop that croaking, loathsome, hideous owl of religious melancholy into the bushes.

DETESTABLE GOSSIPS.

"The most loathsome, miserable, God-forsaken wretch on earth is a gossip. I can tell her on the street though I have never seen her before. She walks fast and has her bonnet strings loose, for she has not had time to tie them since she heard that last scandal. She looks both ways as she passes, hoping to see new evidences of depravity in the

windows. I think that when Satan has a job so infinitely mean that in all the pit he cannot find a devil mean enough to do it, and all bribes and threats have failed to get one willing for infernal crusade, he says to one of his sergeants: 'Go up to Brooklyn, and in such a street, on such a corner, get that gossiping woman, and she will be glad to do it.'

"And sure enough, like a hungry fish, she takes the hook in her mouth, and Satan slackens the line and lets her run out farther and farther, until after awhile he says: 'It is time to haul in that line, and with a few strong pulls he brings her to the beach of fire. What do you say? That she was a member of the Church? A-fishing he does not care what school the fish belong to, whether it is a Presbyterian mackerel or an Episcopal salmon. Amid the thunder crash of Sinai God said: 'Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.' And in Leviticus he says: 'Thou shalt not go up and down as a tale bearer.'

"Take not into your ear that scum of hell that people call little-tattle. Who-soever willingly listens to a slander is equally guilty with the one who tells it, and an old writer says they ought both to be hung—the one by the tongue and the other by the ear. Do not smile upon such a spaniel, lest, like a pleased dog, he put his dirty paw upon you. Throw back the shutter of your soul, oh Christian men and women, and see if there be within you a vulture with filthy talons and cruel beak. Let not this unclean thing root in your soul, for my text says: 'Ye shall hold in abomination among the fowls, the vulture.'

CHOOSE EARTH OR HEAVEN.

"But, my friends, your worldly fates will not last. I will buy out now all that you will be worth in worldly estate seventy-five years from now. I have the money in my pocket with which to do it. Here it is. Two cents! It is a large sum to offer for all you will possess at the close of seventy-five years. Choose the world if you want to, but, if not, then choose heaven. The estate lies partly on this side of the river, but mostly on the other. It is ever accumulating. The prospect of it makes one independent of earthly misfortunes, so that Rogers, the martyr, slept soundly the night before his burning; they violently shook him in order to get him awake in time for the execution, and Paul exulted at the thought of the 'joy unspeakable and full of glory.'

THE CHANGING CHAMELEON.

"Again, taking the suggestion of the text, drive out the chameleon from your soul. There is some difference between good men as to the name of this creeping thing which God pronounced unclean, but I shall take the opinion which seems best suited to my purpose. The chameleon is a reptile, chiefly known by its changeableness of color, taking the color of the thing next to it, sometimes brown, sometimes red and sometimes gray, but always the color of its surroundings, a type of that class of Christians who are now one thing in religious faith and now another, just to suit circumstances, always taking their color of religious belief from the man they are talking to. They go to one place and are first-rate Unitarians. 'Jesus was a good man, but nothing more.' They go to Princeton and they are Trinitarians, almost willing to die for the divinity of Jesus.

ADVICE TO A DAUGHTER.

"An infidel was called to the bedside of his daughter. The daughter said: 'Father, which shall I believe, you or mother? Mother took the religion of Christ, and died in its embrace; you say that religion is a humbug. Now I am going to die, and I am very much perplexed; shall I believe you, or take the belief of my mother?' The father said: 'Choose for yourself.' She said: 'No, I am too weak to choose for myself; I want you to choose for me.'

"Well," said the father, after much hesitation and embarrassment, "Mary, I think you had better take the religion of your mother. The time will come when we shall have to believe something. We cannot afford to be on the fence in religion. Truth and error are set opposite to each other. The one is infinitely right, and the other infinitely wrong. On the judgment day we must give an account of what we believed as well as of what we acted. The difference between believing truth and believing error is the difference between paradise and perdition. I beg you, in the light of the Bible, and on your knees before God, to form your religious opinion and then stick to it, though business comes, sorrow scoffs, and wit caricatures, and the air crackles with the fires of martyrdom. Surely truths in behalf of which Christ died, and angels of God trooped forth, and the whole universe is marshaled, are worth living for and worth dying for. Amidst the most unclean things is this ever changing chameleon of religious theory. Away with the reptile! God abhors it with an all-consuming abhorrence.

SLOW AS A SNAIL.

"Once more: Take the suggestion of the text, and drive out the snail from your soul. God has declared it unclean. It is an animal to be found everywhere between the coldest north and the hottest south. There are 1,500 species of the snail. They have no backbone, and they are so slow that their movement is almost imperceptible. You see a snail in one place to-day; go to morrow and you will find it has advanced only a few inches. It becomes an emblem of that large class of Christian people who go to work with a slowness and sluggishness that is wonderful. They are stopped by every little obstacle, because, like the snail, they have no backbone. Others mount up on eagles' wings, but they go at a snail's pace.

"O child of God, arouse! We have apostrophized prudence and caution long enough. Prudence is a beautiful grace, but of all the family of Christian graces I like her the least because she has been married so often to laziness, sloth and stupidity. We have a million idlers in the Lord's vineyard who pride themselves on their prudence. 'Be prudent,' said the disciples to Christ, 'and stay away from Jerusalem,' but he went. 'Be prudent,' said Paul's friends, 'and look out for what you say to Felix,' but he thundered away until the ruler's knees knocked together. In the eyes of the world the most imprudent men that ever lived were Martin Luther and John Oldcastle, and Wesley and Knox. My opinion is that the most imprudent and

reckless thing is to stand still. It is well to hear our commander's voice when he says 'Halt!' but quite so important to hear it when he says 'Forward!' This Gospel ship made to plow the sea at fifteen knots an hour, is not making three. Sometimes it is most prudent to ride your horse slowly and pick out the way for his feet, and not strike him with the spurs; but when a band of Shoshonee Indians are after you in full tilt, the most prudent thing for you to do is to plunge in the rowels and put your horse to a full run, shouting: 'Go long!' until the Rocky Mountains echo it. The foes of God are pursuing us. The world, the flesh, and the Devil are after us, and our wisest course is to go ahead at swiftest speed.

DRIVE OUT ALL UNCLEAN THINGS.

"When the Church of God gets to advancing too fast, it will be time enough to use caution. No need of putting on the brakes while going up hill. Do not let us sit down waiting for something to turn up, but go ahead in the name of God, and turn it up. The great danger to the Church now is not sensation, but stagnation. Oh, that the Lord God would send a host of aroused and consecrated men to set the Church on fire, and to turn the world upside down! Let us go to work and catch the last snail in our souls.

"With Divine vehemence let us stamp its life out, for my text declares: 'These also shall be unclean to you among the creeping things that creep upon the earth; the chameleon and the snail.' I have thus tried to prejudice these Christian men and women against gloominess, and slanders, and half-and-half experiences, and changeableness and sloth. Our opportunities for getting better are being rapidly swallowed up in the remorseless past. This golden Sabbath is about to drop out of the calendar. This moment may we drive out all the unclean things from our souls—the vulture, and the bat, and the owl, and the chameleon and the snail; and in place thereof bring in the Lamb of God and the Dove of the Spirit! The case is urgent. Arouse! before it be eternally too late! 'Whosoever thy hand find th to do, do it.'"

DON'T TALK TOO MUCH.

Hints for Retail Salesmen Who Desire to Be Successful.

To be a successful salesman one must maintain a certain amount of reserve. Too much talk has spoiled many a good trade. It is tiresome to purchasers, who frequently prefer to be guided by their own judgment than by the suggestions of store clerks. People who buy goods, particularly the ladies, generally think over what they want and make up their minds before they start out on a shopping expedition about what they want and what they feel they can afford to pay for it. When they enter a store and call for a certain quality of goods they expect the salesman to place before them what they desire—not to suggest they know something a good deal better, which they are sure will give them far greater satisfaction.

Customers as a general thing do not like talkative and garrulous store clerks, they prefer a quiet, obliging, dignified salesman, who will show them goods without any ostentatious display of his person or intellectual imbecility. Clerks should never be impertinent or snappish, even to their inferiors. They should learn to treat all customers with courtesy and impartial politeness. Jokes, stories and sloppy sentiment should never by manner or expression do or say anything to offend the dignity of a matron or bring a blush to a modest maiden's cheek. They should never remind any homespun agriculturalist of any unpleasant mistake he may have made in his past career, for such men are always more or less sensitive and do not like to be made a butt of.

Many a clerk by trying to say some smart thing has lost a good customer